

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
Alexandria Division**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

v.

ZACKARY ELLIS SANDERS,

Defendant.

Case No. 1:20-cr-00143  
The Honorable Judge Ellis

Pretrial Conference: April 9, 2021  
Trial: April 26, 2021

**DEFENDANT’S MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO PARTIALLY SEAL  
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO CONTINUE TRIAL DATE**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Zackary Ellis Sanders, by counsel, moves this Honorable Court, pursuant to Local Crim. R. 49, for entry of an Order permitting his Memorandum in Support of Motion to Continue Jury Trial to be filed partially under seal. Sealing is necessary because footnote 8 contains private medical information.

**II. ARGUMENT**

Footnote 8 of the Memorandum in Support of His Motion to Continue Jury Trial should be sealed because it contains confidential and medical information that the public would not, under any other circumstances, be entitled to see. It is true that judicial proceedings are generally open to the public and that there exists, while not a First Amendment right, a common law right of public access to judicial records and documents. *Media Gen. Operations, Inc. v. Buchanan*, 417 F.3d 424, 429 (4th Cir. 2005) (citing *Balt. Sun Co. v. Goetz*, 886 F.2d 60, 64-65 (4th Cir. 1989)). The presumption of the right of access can be rebutted if countervailing interests heavily outweigh the public interests in access. *Virginia Dep't of State Police v. Washington Post*, 386 F.3d 567, 575 (4th Cir. 2004). The party seeking to overcome the presumption bears the burden of showing some

significant interest that outweighs the presumption. *Id.* at 575. Ultimately the decision to seal is a matter best left to the sound discretion of the district court. *Washington Post*, 386 F.3d at 575. With respect to medical records in particular, the Eastern District of Virginia has previously held that such records are entitled to privacy protection and may be filed under seal. *James v. Service Source, Inc.*, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 86169 at \*12 (Nov. 21, 2007 E.D. Va.).

Finally, sealing, as opposed to redaction, is necessary to protect the confidential information contained in footnote 8 because the document is confidential in its entirety.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

Defendant respectfully requests that the Court enter an Order providing that footnote 8 of defendant's Memorandum in Support of Motion to Continue Jury Trial shall be permanently filed under seal.

Respectfully submitted,

ZACKARY ELLIS SANDERS

By Counsel

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

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*Counsel for Defendant Zackary Ellis Sanders*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 24th day of March 2021, the foregoing was served electronically on the counsel of record through the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia Electronic Document Filing System (ECF) and the document is available on the ECF system.

/s/ Jonathan Jeffress

Jonathan Jeffress